STANDARD FORM NO. 64

CONFIDENTIAL

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : AF - Mr. ~~Byrd~~

DATE: June 27, 1956

FROM : AF - Donald R. Norland DRN

SUBJECT: Communism in Morocco

Historical:

1. Communism in Morocco is rooted in two principal pre-war sources:

a. In labor, where the only legal pre-war labor union was the French C.G.T.-controlled U.G.S.C.M. (General Union of Moroccan Confederated Syndicates). Moroccans had no alternative but to join this union if they wished to benefit from union gains;

b. The Moroccan Communist Party, which was officially formed in 1945. Two years earlier, the vigorous activity of several influential European Communists, dating back to the 1930's, had led to the formation of a Communist Party of Morocco. French Communists filled most of the important posts in the Communist Party of Morocco, which did not become truly Moroccan in leadership until after World War II.

2. In December, 1952, the Istiqlal Party and the Moroccan Communist Party were outlawed by the same decree of Resident General Augustin Guillaume. Attempts were made at that time to link Moroccan nationalism and Communist subversion at a time when Communist activity was rampant, particularly in the Near and Far East.

3. With the deposition of the Sultan on August 20, 1953, the Moroccan Communist Party followed the nationalist line in protesting vigorously against the French action. MCP activity remained largely clandestine during this period, although there were periodic communiques calling for a "popular United Front" with Moroccan Nationalists in opposing French rule. The MCP was highly unsuccessful in infiltrating the dominant Istiqlal Nationalist movement.

a. Beginning in July, 1954, and continuing for about one year, Radio Budapest broadcast a daily program in Moroccan Arabic beamed to Morocco and generally known as the "Voice of Peace and Independence."

The broadcasts were widely believed to have been directed by an Algerian, naturalized French, named Ali Yata who was, from its founding, the Secretary General of the Moroccan Communist Party and who was allowed to leave France in 1954 to travel behind the Iron Curtain. These Budapest broadcasts

State Dept
AF
From Norland

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were considered the most important means of supporting the underground activities of the Moroccan Cummunists during the time (December 1952-November 1955) their organization was banned.

4. With the return of the Sultan on November 16, 1955, the cheers of the Communists were totally inaudible or submerged in the general Nationalist rejoicing. Although a group of the MCP in December, 1955, managed to sneak in a visit to the Sultan, using a false pretext, they have been effectively excluded from any official participation in the activities of the Moroccan Government. They have, like all other groups, resumed a certain amount of propaganda and organizational activity as the situation permitted, and there are evidences of their attempting to penetrate or use the names of Nationalist organizations for their own use. This has led to a certain amount of internecine struggle with the Istiqlal, including at least one otherwise inexplicable assassination of a Communist leader.

From past experience, therefore, Communist efforts may be presumed to be directed along the following lines in Morocco:

a. Attempted penetration of the U.M.T. (Union Marocaine du Travail) which claims a membership of 500,000 and which has permitted membership of one formerly C.G.T.-dominated Moroccan unions and does not bar Communists from individual membership. It can be expected that strong pressure by the Communists will be exerted in favor of immediate social reforms, higher wages, "socialization" of major industries in Morocco, and that the strike weapon will tend to be used for political [redacted].

b. Revamping and vigorous reorganization of the Moroccan Communist Party, membership in which has never (according to records in this office) exceeded 2,000, and probably is somewhat less. Particular attention will no doubt be paid, as in the past, to infiltration of vital industries such as the port of Casablanca, the Phosphate industry of Khouribga, and the communication and transportation fields in Morocco.

c. Active development of "Front" organizations to exploit the current popularity of nationalism, no doubt including the usual demands that American bases be forbidden in Morocco. A core of French Communists and fellow-travelers has remained in positions of importance in the communication media in Morocco, including several newspapers, and have recently been found willing to take over certain of the positions in the monopoly radio station "Radio Maroc" when other French employees refused to read and Army of Liberation communique on May 29, 1956. These persons, because they are Europeans, are required to work unobtrusively in the Moroccan-dominated scene, but it may nevertheless be possible for them to exercise influence in the formation of Moroccan public opinion.

In summary, the Communist movement in Morocco constitutes a potential danger in the present political vacuum, but does not at present have either the noteworthy, respectable leaders or the political program to constitute an immediate threat in Morocco. Soviet offers of aid, military or economic, or the exchange of high-level visits between Russia and Morocco could quickly alter the picture.

NEA:AF:DRNorland:jmk
6/27/56

2223

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

ACTION COPY

38

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Action
NEA

Control: 14306
Rec'd: January 24, 1957
1:48 p.m.

FROM: Rabat

Info
RMR

TO: **Secretary of State**

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NO: 473, January 24

SENT DEPARTMENT 473; REPEATED INFORMATION PARIS 249, CASABLANCA 46, TANGIER 177.

Moroccan Communist party has distributed leaflet protesting refusal Moroccan authorities permit Ali Yata, Secretary General of MCP, remain in Morocco. Yata arrived Rabat-Sale Airport January 19, leaflet states, was held incommunicado throughout night at airport and deported to France next.

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1957 JAN 24 PM 5 08

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File Designation 771.001/3-1556
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Date MAR 15, 1956

From TANGIER

To STATE

In the review of this file this item was removed because access to it is restricted. Restrictions on records in the National Archives are stated in general and specific record group restriction statements which are available for examination. The item identified above has been withdrawn because it contains:

☒ Security-Classified Information

☐ Otherwise Restricted Information

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Authority

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WITHDRAWAL NOTICE

(20)

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PRIORITY

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(Security Classification)

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XR 751.001
651.71

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : AmConGen Casablanca

162
DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

April 19, 1957
DATE

REF : TANGIER-1 TUNIS-1
ALGIERS-1 S/EWC-1 SY-2 IO/R IES-5

13 For Dept. Use Only	ACTION NEA-4	DEPT. INFO RMIR-2 CLI-8 EUR-5 EUR/X-1 P-2 L/P-1 L/C-1
	REC'D 4-26.	OTHER CIA-12 CSD-4 ARMY-4 NAVY-3 AIR-3 STATE OCB

SUBJECT: Communist Contacts with Moroccans in Paris and North Africa

(1)

While it is, in general, desirable that French influence be maintained in North Africa, there are aspects of this influence which must be recognized as harmful to Free World objectives. One of these is contacts between French Communists and North Africans, particularly students, in France; another is the easy access to Morocco, both its administrative and its industrial complex, of French Communist fonctionaires and technicians.

Illustrative of the first danger is a statement made to the reporting officer recently by young Mohammed Soussane, Moroccan student who has just completed three and a half months in the United States as a delegate to the New York Herald Tribune's Youth Forum. Suspicious, even truculent, prior to his trip, he has returned completely overwhelmed, enthusiastic about American life and attitudes, and anxious to return to study business administration at Columbia University, where, he says, he has been accepted tuition-free. On his way back here he stopped in Paris for a week, mingled with the Moroccan students at the Maison Morocaine in the Cite Universitaire, and found many of them looking forward to a trip to Russia, arranged through the Soviet Embassy in Paris, scheduled for July of this year, to last two months, and to include 150 Moroccan students.

Possibly Soussane's figures are wrong; he is sure that they are not. For the purposes of discussion, however, let us assume they are correct. This report, although it is by far the most alarming yet received, follows a pattern of other reports about Communist activity among Moroccan students in Paris which are frequently reaching this Consulate General. How direct and yet how effective is such a Soviet move. These students are the cream of Morocco's youth, leaders of their technician-starved country in the very near future. They are already selected because of their leadership potential, and selected by those who know them best. The Soviets are spared the problem and risk of choosing them themselves, and will return them to Paris where the effects of their indoctrination can be watched for a year or so. Travel expense-wise, these students are already

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771.00/4-1957
CONFIDENTIAL FILE

part way along the road from Morocco to Moscow; their hosts are spared the inconvenience of getting them across the frontiers of their Moslem native land. Soussane says these students, while "not stupid", have "seen nothing yet" that will prevent them from being overwhelmed by the treatment they can be expected to receive.

On the other side of the coin is the question of Communist French fonctionaires and technicians in Morocco. France has never been careful in selecting the people she sends to do her work here. She is not now. M. Charles HERNU, French Radical Socialist Deputy, reputedly an enthusiastic lieutenant of MENDES-FRANCE, spent about ten days in Morocco immediately prior to March 6 this year. While allowance might perhaps be made for sensationalism that M. Hernu's political affiliations might lead him to seek, he had the following to say.

He was staggered by the recent growth of Communist activity in Morocco. He spoke of Communist cells functioning in the Port of Casablanca. He could give no specific details; presumably he referred to undesirable elements among the dockworkers. But overt communism is not the greatest danger, he said. The attitude of the French fonctionaires in the employ of the Sherifian Government is such that at least 50% of them should be sent home immediately. Hernu had, however, looked carefully into the question of replacements even before he left France. "If you put an ad in the paper in France saying you want ten technicians to work in the Phosphates (Company) you may get 100 applicants, but nine out of ten of them are Communists. The same is true of the fonctionaires".

On analysis, M. Hernu's statement about the high percentage of French Communists among those interested in coming here is not surprising. What, in fact, from a Frenchmans point of view, does Morocco have to offer a Frenchman now? The job attractiveness in the Sherifian Government is zero; from reports, exaggerated perhaps, that French insist on believing, the security situation is zero as well. The attitude of the average Moroccan toward his French colleagues is certainly not conducive to their coming here. Many Moroccans of little talent, and there are plenty of them in the government, cover their enormous, but fully justified, inferiority complex with arrogance and irascibility which French particularly detest. Most French fonctionaires who are here already are convinced that it is only a matter of time before they will be pushed out by Arab replacements. What has happened to France in Morocco recently has been, to the sensitive but average Frenchman, humiliating. Furthermore, Arab standards are too low for the civilization-conscious Frenchmen to accept --- unless the Frenchman has reason to wallow. For most of them patriotism is not enough; Communism, however, is a sufficient motive.

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France, and the United States as well, presumably, will measure the success of the several negotiations now going on between France and Morocco to a large degree in terms of the number of French fonctionaires Morocco is willing to accept. If a good deal more care is not taken in the selection of these fonctionaires than M. Hernu's experience has indicated to be now the case, the result will be less than a happy one. To expect the Moroccans to be able to screen them effectively is optimistic.

Henry H. Ford
Henry H. Ford
American Consul General

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS: Tangier, Algiers, Tunis.

CC: Paris, Rabat.

AIR POUCH
PRIORITY

UNCLASSIFIED
(*Security Classification*)

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : AMEMBASSY, ROME

168
DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

July 30, 1957
DATE

REF :

AUG - 1 1957 IO-4

50 For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.
	NEA-4	INFO RM/R-2 OIR-8 P-1 H/OP-1 H/O-1 EUR/X-1 EUR-3
	REC'D 8-5	OTHER CIA-15 OCB-1 OSD-4 USIA-10 ARMY-4 NAVY-4 AIR-3

SUBJECT: Interview of Secretary Moroccan Communist Party

Enclosed is a summary of statements made by Ali Yata, Secretary of the Moroccan Communist Party, in an interview in Rome published on July 23 by l'Unita, Italian Communist daily paper.

Ali Yata characterized the war in Algeria as "the fundamental obstacle ... to all the objectives which we have set for ourselves as an independent nation". He criticized the presence of French troops and American bases in Morocco and called the Eisenhower Doctrine "a modern and able form of imperialism". He opposed North African participation in a "Mediterranean Pact".

For the Ambassador:

Earl D. Sohm,
First Secretary of Embassy

Enclosure: Summary of statements by Ali Yata

Copies to: Rabat
Algiers
Paris

RKirk/tfh
REPORTER

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AUG 12 1957

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Ali Yata States that the War in Algeria Determines the Fate of all North Africa

(l'Unita, July 23, 1957)

In the course of an interview with the editor of l'Unita, Ali Yata, the Secretary of the Moroccan Communist Party, stated that the Moroccan people will not enjoy full independence and freedom so long as foreign troops are on its territory. There were in Morocco 200,000 foreign troops, half of whom were French. The situation was rendered more serious by the existence in Moroccan territory of important U.S. bases.

After declaring that on the economic plane the fundamental problem is that of building up an up-to-date economy and the industrialization of the country, Ali Yata said, "A fundamental obstacle — the war in Algeria — blocks these objectives, and in general all the objectives which we have set for ourselves as an independent nation. As long as this war continues, our independence will be threatened and could again be put in question. As long as it lasts, we shall not be able to regularize our relations with France. The solution of the Algerian problem is decisive for our national aims. As a result, the Moroccan people have been mobilized to give the maximum possible assistance to the Algerians who are heroically battling for their liberty ..."

Ali Yata described the Eisenhower Doctrine as "a modern and able form of imperialism", adding: "We condemn it and urge our Government to condemn it officially, maintaining at the same time friendly relations with the United States."

Referring to the projects for a "Mediterranean Pact", Ali Yata said: "If the North African countries joined the Pact, side by side with France, Spain and Italy, they would find themselves in a subordinate position and would lose their independence."

Finally, he declared that the Moroccan Communists had welcomed the decisions of the 20th Congress of the Soviet Communist Party, which, in their opinion, marked the beginning of a new era for the international working class movement and for detente.

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FR 751.001
JAN 7- 1958

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

To: The Department of State, Washington — Desp. No. 1103

From: The American Embassy, Paris — January 3, 1958

Ref:

SO Rec'd 1-10 | ACTION AF-5 | INFO RM/R-2 EUR-5 IRC-8 P-1 U/OP-1 U/O-1 EURFX-1 IO-4 CIA-15 OCB-1 OSD-4 USIA-10 ARMY-4 NAVY-3 AIR-3

Subject: Interview with Secretary of Moroccan Communist Party

L'Humanité of January 1, 1958, published the text of an interview with Ali Yata, Secretary of the Moroccan Communist Party. Ali Yata had recently headed a delegation of the Moroccan Communist Party in talks with representatives of the French Communist Party in Paris (Embassy despatch 924, December 5, 1957).

In the interview, Ali Yata stated that the Moroccan Party (PCM) was struggling "to force the French, Spanish and American troops to leave Morocco." The stationing of foreign troops, he said, "serves as means of pressure on our Government engaged in negotiations with the countries from which these troops come." He added: "The pressing demand for evacuation doubles and cannot be separated from that of the integration into the mother country of the cities and zones still occupied by Spain: Ceuta, Melilla, Ifni, Rio de Oro and of territories on which France still imposes its yoke: Touat and Mauritania." As for the Eastern frontier, this question, he said, "will be settled with independent Algeria. One can predict that it will raise no major difficulties, so strong is the will of the north-African peoples to cooperate intimately with each other and to build a north-African unity."

Turning to economic questions, Ali Yata complained that while Morocco now has a national political power, it has an economy still geared to "the needs and appetites of the imperialist masters. With a superstructure more and more national, the infrastructure remains colonial." The PCM consequently calls for "certain nationalizations: that of mining, transport and energy enterprises, of the State Bank." It also calls for "a real agrarian reform."

Politically, Ali Yata complained that the PCM is still suffering from "difficulties born of arbitrary measures that the Juins and Guillaumes inflicted on us under their proconsulate." These restrictions against the Communists, he continued, "are unworthy of independent Morocco and incompatible with the democratic principles that H. M. King Mohammed V proclaims."

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A paragraph denouncing American bases clearly echoed warnings earlier sounded in the recent series of Bulganin notes. Ali Yata warned: "These bases are directed against the USSR and the countries of socialism. Well, in case of attack, given the means the latter dispose of especially in missiles of all sorts, they would be wiped out in lightening time. The regions in which they are located could not be spared. For example, with Nouaceur, there would disappear the whole Casablanca region, with a million souls. Morocco would become a vast atomic cemetary."

A long section of the interview is devoted to a condemnation of the Spanish role in Ifni. Included, is the following paragraph:

"The PCM supports the national government in its efforts towards settlement of the question by negotiation. But, simultaneously, it calls upon the patriots not to abandon their vigilance and to support to the maximum the struggle of their brothers to rid themselves of the Franco yoke."

Ali Yata concluded the interview with a word of advice to the French government. He stated: "If they (the French leaders) wanted to serve the superior interest of France, they should seize the offer of good offices of the Moroccan and Tunisian chiefs of State and without delay engage in negotiations with the FLN, on the basis of the recognition of the independence of Algeria. They would open vistas of a vast and fruitful cooperation between France and North Africa, based on absolute equality and respect for the sovereignty of the parties."

John K. Emmerson
Counselor of Embassy

Embassy pouching copies to
Rabat, Algiers, Tunis

BAL

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38

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Control: 4823
Rec'd: February 8, 1958
10:54 a.m.

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FROM: Rome

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 2483, February 8, 1 p.m.

SENT DEPARTMENT 2483, REPEATED INFORMATION RABAT 17, PARIS 281, ALGIERS 6, TUNIS 40, MOSCOW UNNUMBERED.

Reference: Rome's 2463 to Department, repeated information Rabat 15, pouched information Amembassy Moscow, Paris, Tunis, AMCONGEN Algiers unnumbered.

Italian Communist organ L'UNITA today carries wordy joint Morrocan Italian Communist statement of over two columns, referring to January 28-February 5 discussions led by Togliatti and Ali Yata, including "exchange of information and experience" and discussion of "problems of common interest" in "spirit of mutual respect." After referring to victories of world socialism, successes of national liberation movement, and strong anti-imperialist drive of Arab peoples as well as to great contributions of Socialist world, particularly USSR, to victorious struggle of Arab peoples, two parties condemn imperialist efforts to divide and rule Arabs and call for struggle against Baghdad Pact and Eisenhower Doctrine while supporting Bandung and Cairo Conferences. Moroccan Communist admiration and respect for success and importance Italian Communists so effusive as to give rise suspicion Togliatti and colleagues trying to impress Moscow and other parties with their own capabilities. Two parties also pledge concrete help to Algerian nationalist liberation front. Italian Communists express solidarity with Moroccan nationalist movement for independence and particularly evacuation foreign troops, suppression American bases and elimination foreign monopolies from Morocco. Moroccan Communists favor friendship and collaboration with Italy on basis equality as in interest of Arab world. Italian Communists denounce lack of an Italian Mediterranean policy and denial to Italy by most powerful imperialists of the possibility of fruitful economic and cultural collaboration with Arab wrold. Both parties pledge themselves to work for latter goal.

ZELLERBACH

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59-51
Action

Control: 4085
Rec'd: February 7, 1958
9:23 a.m.

1958 FEB 8 AM 7 33

OFFICE EUROPEAN AFFAIRS MESSAGE CENTER

EUR
Info

FROM: Rome

TO: Secretary of State

RMR

NO: 2463, February 6, 6 p.m.

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SENT DEPARTMENT 2463, REPEATED INFORMATION RABAT 15, MOSCOW, PARIS, TUNIS, ALGIERS UNNUMBERED.

Communist L'UNITA February 6 reported delegation "of political office Moroccan Communist Party" (PCM) visited PCI January 28 to February 5. Delegation, headed by Secretaries Ali Yata and Abdullah Lajachi, met PCI directorate and visited Communist federations Grosseto and Naples. L'UNITA said in course stay Rome PCM delegation received in chamber by Vice Presidents (PSI) Targhetti and D'Onofrio (PCI) and by other Parliamentarians of both parties. Delegation also received in Senate by VP Mole (leftist independent) and by Scoccimarro (PCI) as well as by head PSI Senatorial group Lussu. PCM delegation also met PSI leaders with whom L'UNITA reports delegation had cordial talk. Embassy notes PCM delegation accorded welcome by some most notorious Filo-Communists in PSI. (Targhetti, Lussu, Valori, etc.) Announcement PCM delegation passed one week in Rome appears further evidence increasing PCI involvement in affairs Asian-African Communist Parties.

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CWD:ET/5

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Control: 5570
Rec'd: OCTOBER 9, 1958
1:02 PM

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FROM: RABAT

TO: Secretary of State

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NO: 581, OCTOBER 9.

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SENT DEPT 581 RPTD INFO TUNIS 140 PARIS 252 CASABLANCA TANGIER UNN

ACCORDING AL-ALAM PUBLIC SECURITY OFFICERS RAIDED CASABLANCA COMMUNIST PARTY HEADQUARTERS OCTOBER 7 SEIZING "AL PARTY'S DOCUMENTS" WHICH REPORTEDLY INCLUDED "MESSAGES EXCHANGED BETWEEN THE COMMUNISTS AND ISRAEL." AL-ALAM SAYS ACTION TAKEN BECAUSE OF "SECRET ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY COMMUNISTS AGAINST GOVERNMENT PROJECTS AND PROGRAM" AND THAT COMMUNISTS WILL PROBABLY BE TRIED.

AL-ALAM OCTOBER 9 SAYS POLICE REPORT THAT DOCUMENTS REVEAL WIDE CORRESPONDENCE OF CP MOROCCO WITH OTHER COMMUNIST STATES, AND INCLUDE MESSAGE FROM SEC. GEN. CP FRANCE ASKING FOR REPORT ON POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN MOROCCO. OTHER COMMUNISTS REPORTEDLY ROUNDED UP OCTOBER 8.

YOST

PA

FKG/22

DEC 4 - 1958

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Control: 6611
Rec'd: OCTOBER 10, 1958
6:22 PM

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FROM: RABAT

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 603, OCTOBER 10

SENT DEPARTMENT 603, REPEATED INFORMATION PARIS 259, TUNIS 144, CASABLANCA, TANGIER UNNUMBERED

AL-ALAM THIS MORNING RUNS THIRD CONSECUTIVE ARTICLE ON POLICE INVESTIGATION CP HEADQUARTERS IN CASABLANCA. "THOUGH POLICE INVESTIGATIONS ARE COMPLETELY SECRET AL-ALAM CAN DISCLOSE FROM ITS OWN SOURCES SECRET OF SOME OF THE ACTUAL INVESTIGATIONS."

ACCORDING TO ARTICLE SEIZED DOCUMENTS INCLUDE COPIES LETTERS ADDRESSED TO MOST WORLD CPS INCLUDING THAT OF ISRAEL. MOST LETTERS INCLUDE "STATE SECRETS," ONE INCLUDES DETAILS ABOUT MOROCCAN BUDGET AND ANOTHER DETAILS ABOUT ROYAL MOROCCAN ARMY, POLICE, RESERVE FORCES, FORTIFICATIONS AND TROOP DISPOSITONS.

"IT IS WORTH MENTIONING THAT A RUSSIAN FLAG WAS FOUND IN THE PARTY HEADQUARTERS." ARTICLE SAYS "PROFESSOR SIMON AND ALLAL BEN AHMED AMONG THOSE ARRESTED."

MOROCCAN GOVERNMENT HAS NOT YET ISSUED COMMUNIQUE ON SUBJECT.

POLITICAL BUREAU CP MOROCCO ISSUED STATEMENT DESCRIBING "GRAVE POLICE PROVOCATION AGAINST OUR PARTY" ON OCTOBER 7 IN WHICH POLICE SURROUNDED PARTY HEADQUARTERS, ARRESTED ALL PRESENT THERE, AND CONFISCATED DOCUMENTS.

STATEMENT CITED AL-ALAM ARTICLE AND PROTESTED "ALLEGATIONS" EXISTENCE LING BETWEEN PARTY AND ISRAEL. PARTY "DENOUNCES THIS VAST PROVOCATION,...AND RECALLS THAT IT NOT ONLY NATIONAL

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DEC 3 - 1958

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ORGANIZATION VICTIM SUCH PROCESS."

PARTY APPEALS TO "ALL WORKERS, TO ALL PROGRESSIVE MEN"
TO PROTEST AGAINST "UNDEMOCRATIC MEASURES." TEXT BY POUCH.

YOST

OM/22

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

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34

UNCLASSIFIED

Classification

Control: 9236
Rec'd: OCTOBER 15, 1958
2:02 PM

Action AF

Info RMR INR EUR P UOP IRC OCB USIA CIA OSD ARMY NAVY AIR NIC

FROM: RABAT

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 631, OCTOBER 15

SENT DEPARTMENT 631 REPEATED INFORMATION PARIS 265, TUNIS [illegible] CASABLANCA, TANGIER UNNUMBERED

ALI YATA, SECRETARY GENERAL OF MOROCCAN COMMUNIST PARTY, WHO WAS ARRESTED IN TANGIER LAST SATURDAY AFTER ATTEMPT REENTER MOROCCO FROM FOREIGN EXILE, HAS BEEN RELEASED AND AUTHORIZED TO REMAIN IN TANGIER UNTIL DEFINITE DECISION ABOUT HIM TAKEN. HE MAY NOT EXERCISE ANY POLITICAL OR PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES DURING HIS SOJOURN OR TO LEAVE TANGIER PROVINCE. YATA IS SAID TO HAVE BEEN CARRYING A FRENCH PASSPORT.

YOST

PK

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NOV 21 1958

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PRIORITY

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : Amembassy RABAT

147
DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

October 16, 1958
DATE

REF :

OCT 22 1958

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.
	AF 5	INFO RMP/R-2 IRC 8 INR/SA-1 NEA 4 USIA-
	REC'D 10-27	OTHER CIA-12 USIA 10 AFMy-4 NAVY 3

SUBJECT: Moroccan Communist Party Issues Statement

The Embassy encloses the French text of a statement issued by the Moroccan Communist Party following the police raid on the Party Headquarters in Casablanca on October 7. The statement appeared following stories in Al Alam which reported that the documents seized in the Party Headquarters included messages "exchanged between the Communists and Israel" and with Communist Parties all over the world.

The Communist Party's statement described "grave police provocation against our Party" and protested "allegations" of the existence of a link between the Party and Israel. The Party went on to denounce "this vast provocation" and appealed to workers and "all progressive men" to protest the Government's action.

For the Ambassador:

Don V. Catlett
Counselor of Embassy
for Economic Affairs

Enclosure:

1. MCP Statement
   October 8, 1958

cc: Casablanca
    Tangier

FILED
JAN 0 - 1959

POL:EWSchaefer:cmt
REPORTER

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771.00/10-1658 DMS

DECLARATION DU PARTI COMMUNISTE MAROCAIN

Une grave provocation policière s'est déroulée dans la journée du mardi 7 octobre contre notre parti. La police procéda à l4encerclement du siege du Comité Central du Parti, situé 22 rue Colbert à Casablanca et à l'arrestation de toute les personnes qui s'y présentèrent, dont des militants de notre Parti. Les policiers perquisitionnèrent également sans témoins à l'intérieur du local et emportèrent avec eux des documents et archives du Parti.

Une information parue dans le quotidien "El Alam" du mercredi 8 octobre prétend que la perquisition effectuee au siège du P.C.M. à Casablanca "parti non reconnu par l'Etat selon ce journal; a permis de sésir des archives et des documents qualifiés de "très importants" qui contiennent" une correspondance échangée entre les communistes et Israel" et El Alam ajoute "il semble que des mesures ont été prises comme conséquence de l'activité clandestine que mènent les communistes contre l'oeuvre et les plans de l'Etat".

La reconnaissance de notre parti par l'Etat ne pose aucun problème. Cette reconnaissance, nous l'avons comprise par notre lutte contre l'impérialisme. Tous les patriotes savent que le P.C.M. en décembre 1952 a été l'objet de la meme mesure d'interdiction que le Parti de l'Istiqlal; mesure émanant des autorités colonialistes. Certes; cette interdiction n'a pas été officiellement rapportée mais le P.C.M. là considérant comme abrogée par l'avènement de l'Indépendance, a repris publiquement ses activités, activités qu'il n'a jamais cessé de mener au vu et au su de tout le monde; et cela depuis près de trois ans?

Il serait mal venu de l'acuser d'activites clandestines et subversives tandis que toute son action est axee dans le sens de la consolidation de l'Independance nationale, par l'évacuation de toute les troupes étrangères, l'unité territoriale; l'instauration d'une économie indépendante et d'une democratie réelle dans le cadre d'une monarchie constitutionnelle.

Par ailleurs le Bureau Politique du P.C.M. élève une protestation indiguée contre les allégations fabriquées de toutes pièces ayant trait à "une correspondance echangée entre les communistes et Israel". Nous mettons àu défit les auteurs de ces calomnies de prouver la véracité de leurs dires, à moins qu'ils n'aient recours à la confection de faux documents. Notre Parti dont la ligne polique est basée sur la lutte pour l'achèvement de la liberation nationale, l'unite maghrebine et la solidarité la plus étroite avec les pays arabes frères qui mènent actuellement une lutte courageuse et consequente contre l'impérialisme et son instrument l'Etat d'Israel, n'entretient et ne peut entretenir aucune relation ni correspondance avec les mouvements sionistes. Au contraire il n'a jamais cessé de dénoncer leur rôle d'agents de l'impérialisme, en particulier au moment de l'agression anglo-franco-isrealienne contre l'Egypte. La calomnie est trop grosse pour que les patriotes ne l'aient pas éventée dès le debut.

Le Parti Communiste Marocain dénounce cette vaste provocation, manoeuvre grossière de la police et rappelle qu'il n'est pas la seule organisation nationale victime de tels procédés.

Il lance un appel à tous les travailleurs; à tous les hommes de progrès de ce pays quelles que soient leurs tendances pour protester contre ces mesures anti-démocratiques qui doivent immediatement cesser, ce qui est possible si la protestation populaire est suffisamment forte. Aujourd'hui ce sont surtout les communistes qui sont touchés par l'arbitraire, arbitraire qui risque d' atteindre tous les patriotes demain.

C'est pourquoi, il est absolument indispensable que les libertés democratiques soient reconnues et garanties aux citoyens de notre pays.

Casablanca 8 Octobre 1958

Le Bureau Politique du Parti Communiste Marocain

[redacted]Air Pouch

PRIORITY

SECRET

(Security Classification)

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

This document consists of 6 pages

No. 1 of 7 copies, Series A

FROM : AmConGen CASABLANCA

128
DESP. NO.

COPY NO. 1 SERIES A

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

March 11, 1959
DATE

REF :

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION AF	DEPT. RMIR IRC EUR NEA NEA/FSI
	REC'D 4-6	INFO OTHER CIA USIA OSD ARMY NAVY IIR OCB

SUBJECT: Moroccan Communist Party Activities in Morocco.

Summary

The Moroccan Communist Party (Parti Communiste Marocain - P.C.M.) has played only a very small overt role in Moroccan political life in recent years. Illegal but tolerated in the eyes of the Moroccan Government, the P.C.M. has publicly supported the main trend of Moroccan nationalism and most recently has given special encouragement to the UMT and the "new" Istiqlal of Mehdi BEN BARKA. The P.C.M. at the present time is probably less important as a medium of Communist influence in Morocco than are foreign Communists in Morocco, notably French Communist advisers holding key desks within the Moroccan Government, French Communist school teachers, the Soviet Embassy in Rabat, the Polish Consulate General in Casablanca, and the Casablanca trading organizations which represent the Bloc.

Current Line of P.C.M.

The current program of the P.C.M., as expressed by its "grey" French language organ, La Nation, published in Casablanca, includes the following points:

1. The King and existing government are legitimate and should be obeyed.

2. General elections should be held for a national legislative assembly which would also draw up a constitution and designate a cabinet responsible to the assembly.

3. The P.C.M. should be permitted to participate in the elections and in the assembly as well as in the cabinet designated by the assembly.

4. The P.C.M. should be approved by the government as a legal party.

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5. Police harrassment of the P.C.M. should end, and P.C.M. Secretary General Ali YATA should be permitted to travel freely in Morocco and carry on normal political activities.

6. Foreign military forces should be driven from Morocco; in particular, the U.S. air bases should be evacuated.

7. Moroccan territory still under foreign control, notably Ceuta, Mellila, Ifni, and Rio de Oro, should be returned to Morocco.

8. The Moroccan economy should be liberated from the control of foreign capitalists. Their establishments in Morocco, which have made exorbitant profits, should be taxed heavily.

9. Key and rich sectors of the economy, such as the Banque d'Etat and the mining industry, should be nationalized.

10. The General Act of Algeciras should be denounced.

11. Land reform should be undertaken in order to improve the lot of the agrarian masses, using the following three methods:

a) subdivision and redistribution of uncultivated land belonging to foreign "colons," and

b) subdivision and redistribution of lands belonging to feudal Moroccan elements, and

c) nationalization and collectivization of cultivated colon lands.

12. Heavy industry should be built up.

13. The "social plague" of unemployment should be ended.

14. The "disinterested" aid of the USSR, Communist China, and other "socialist" countries should be solicited by the Moroccan Government.

15. The class consciousness of the proletariat should be developed.

16. The progressive forces of Morocco which are represented by the P.C.M., the present Ibrahim government, the Union Marocaine du Travail (UMT), and the Resistance, should be supported.

17. American and other foreign efforts to plunge the country into anarchy must be frustrated. ("The Americans...consider that at

the present time silence is golden, especially if it conceals the arms traffic which feeds the Middle Atlas rebellion and if it conceals the divisive plots in the midst of the base workers."
-- La Nation, Feb. 13, 1959.)

Leadership of the P.C.M.

Since 1945 the leadership of the P.C.M. has been non-European. In that year Ali YATA, succeeded Léon SULTAN as Secretary General of the party and has held that position ever since, although spending most of his time in exile from Morocco. Since then all the subordinate P.C.M. officials have also been local Moslems or Jews.

Ali Yata has acted the role of a Moroccan nationalist although he is a naturalized French citizen born of an Algerian father and a Moroccan mother, and although he is a former resident of France where he was a worker. (His anomalous position in this connection is not too different from another "Moroccan" nationalist, Dr. Abdelkrim KHATTIB, one of the leaders of the Mouvement Populaire, also born of an Algerian father and a Moroccan mother and educated in France.) From 1948 to 1958 Ali Yata spent most of his time in Europe following his expulsion from the French Zone by the French Protectorate. Following Moroccan independence, he returned to Morocco three times. The first two times he was refused entry by the Moroccan police and he left immediately. The third time, in October 1958, he entered in Tangier and was eventually allowed to circulate in Tangier province only, after a brief arrest by the police for infraction of the regulations on immigration and visits to Morocco. In January, 1959, he was reported to be in Moscow, attending the 21st USSR Communist Party Congress, and in February he was reported to be in Peking.

Abdeslam BOURQUIA holds the title of party "secretary" as well as secretary of the Central Committee of the P.C.M. He was the editor of the old French language P.C.M. newspaper, L'Espoir, in 1952. In April of 1956 his car was attacked by unknown persons. In January and February 1959, he was reported to be in Moscow and Peking along with Ali Yata.

Abdallah LAYACHI (El Ayachi), a member of the Political Committee and Deputy Secretary General of the P.C.M. has been one of the most publicly prominent P.C.M. officials within Morocco. He was one of the first really indigenous Moroccan Communist leaders (not converted in France or Algeria). He has held responsible P.C.M. posts since 1947 or 1948. From 1953 to 1958 he has been considered the resident P.C.M. leader. Layachi was a member of the P.C.M. delegation received by the King on December 5, 1955, in Rabat shortly after the King's return from exile. On October 10,

1958, he was briefly arrested along with several other P.C.M. officers by the Moroccan police in Casablanca in connection with a police raid on P.C.M. national headquarters here.

Dr. Hadi MESSOUAK, another member of the P.C.M. Political Committee, is presently director of La Nation, the unattributed French language weekly publication of the party. He was a member of a P.C.M. delegation led by Ali Yata and received by the King at Saint-Germain-en-Laye in France on November 8, 1955, shortly before the King's return to Morocco from exile. In the spring of 1956 he was received in Paris along with Ali Yata, by Abderrahmim BOUABID, then Minister of State and now Minister of National Economy. He was also among those P.C.M. leaders arrested briefly by the Casablanca police on October 8, 1958, as he was attempting to hold a press conference protesting the police raid on P.C.M. headquarters.

Amnam EL MALEH is still another member of the Political Committee of the P.C.M. He was in the Party delegation received by the King in Rabat on December 5, 1955.

Other P.C.M. members whose names appear from time to time but about whom little is known include Hassan ABABOU (in Paris with Ali Yata in 1955), Ahmed Ben ABDELKADER (member of P.C.M. delegation received by Abdelhadi BOUTALEB, then Moroccan Minister of Labor, on January 19, 1956), Abdelaziz BELAL (Recent contributor to La Nation who advocated improved system of social security and social insurance), Ahmed BENZACOUR (member of P.C.M. delegation received by Labor Minister Boutaleb, January 19, 1956), "Professor" Simon LEVY (among P.C.M. members arrested in Casablanca in October, 1958), Haddaoui MORCHICH (or MORCHII) (labor leader in 1955, received with P.C.M. delegation on December 5, 1955, and by Labor Minister Boutaleb on January 19, 1956), Mohamed SETTI (Secretary, Casablanca region; member of P.C.M. delegation received by Labor Minister Boutaleb on January 19, 1956), and Mohamed TAHRI (received with Ali Yata by King in France on November 8, 1955, and by Labor Minister Boutaleb in Rabat in January 1956.)

History of the P.C.M.

The P.C.M. was established in 1943 under the direction of Léon SULTAN (French), with headquarters (Comité Central) in Casablanca. It controlled the Union General des Syndicats Confédères du Maroc (UGSCM), a labor federation, which was set up in the same year and subsequently affiliated with the French C.G.T. The appeal of the P.C.M. at that time was limited largely to European residents in Morocco inasmuch as the P.C.M. then slavishly followed the French Communist Party line and paid little attention to Moroccan nationalist aspirations.

In 1945, upon the death of Léon Sultan, Ali YATA took over direction of the P.C.M. and Moroccanized it, both in respect to leadership and program. From about 1952 the P.C.M. made common cause with the Istiqlal and other nationalist groups and cooperated in demonstrations and terrorism directed against the Protectorate. In December 1952, for example, the P.C.M. worked with the Istiqlal in organizing disturbances in Casablanca protesting the assassination of Farhat HACHED, the Algerian labor leader, in Tunisia.

The chief Communist terrorist leader in Casablanca during 1952-1955 was Abdelkrim BEN ABDALLAH, a member of the P.C.M. Political Bureau, who was himself killed by unknown assailants in the spring of 1956.

Since the advent of Moroccan independence in 1956, the P.C.M. has been relatively isolated from other political groups in Morocco in spite of its attempts to establish an identity of interest with the Istiqlal and, more recently the UMT and the "new" Istiqlal of Medhi BEN BARKA. Its membership is believed to be down in the hundreds.

Communists and the UMT

From 1952 on, the Istiqlal felt that French Communist and French C.G.T. direction of the UGSCM (which unlike the P.C.M. itself had not Moroccanized its leadership) was subordinating Moroccan nationalist objectives to French ones. The Istiqlal penetrated and seized control of the UGSCM and recast it into a militant arm of the Istiqlal campaign against the French Protectorate. Many Communists, however, remained in the UGSCM, and many may still remain in its successor, the UMT.

The extent of Communist influence within the UMT is not known, however. If MAHJOUB and ABDERRAZAK and other officials of UMT are members of the illegal Moroccan Communist Party, the fact of their membership is guarded closely. The Marxist leanings of Mahjoub ben Seddik are well known, however, and one often hears him defined as a Communist, but the Consulate General has not been able to uncover any concrete evidence of his Party membership. However, there appears to be little difference between the policies and pronouncements of the UMT and those of the Moroccan Communist Party's mouthpiece, La Nation, a Casablanca weekly newspaper. The Moroccan Communist Party publications have not stressed the ideologies of international communism, but have instead largely fostered and supported unrestrained nationalism. Articles in At Taliaa, the UMT weekly newspaper, often ideologically are more Marxist, more pro-Soviet, and more anti-Western than are those in La Nation. The Consulate General has received one report that several officials of the UMT (Taieb ben BOUAZZA, Mohamed TIBARI, and Mohamed ABDERRAZAK) have been appointed to the Administrative Council of Imprimeries

Générales Marocaines (IMPRIGEMA). Imprigema is the printing firm in Casablanca which prints all Moroccan Communist Party publications as well as the UMT weekly, At Taliaa, Imprigema reportedly is owned by Marcel PAUL, a French Communist, and it is reported that he has entrusted full management of the firm to persons closely connected with the UMT. If this report is true, Imprigema easily could be the mechanism used by the Communist Party financially and otherwise to support the UMT and its leaders.

A very cordial friendship exists between the UMT leaders and Ryszard DEPERASINSKI, the Polish Consul in Casablanca. (See Casablanca Despatch 18, July 24, 1958). Deperasinski was a conspicuous member of the group that welcomed the Soviet Ambassador upon his arrival at Rabat-Sale Airport in October 1958. As Deperasinski is known to be a trained and experienced labor agitator, it is probable that he now is being used by the Soviet Embassy in Rabat as their labor intelligence and propaganda officer.

As the UMT is one of the most effectively organized political forces in Morocco, it is a prime target for the local Communist movement. As stated above, the local Communist Party is and has been extremely careful not to propound Communist ideology but has tailored its activities and propaganda to support the same nationalistic and left-wing policies and objectives of the UMT. However, there are several factors mitigating against UMT embracing or appearing to be tied too closely to the Communist movement. An open alliance with the Communist Party would put to question the UMT's avowed loyalty to the throne and also would alienate Islamic religious groups. It is doubtful if the UMT leaders are much concerned about the welfare of the throne or about Islam. However, it is equally doubtful if they are yet prepared openly to attack these two sacred cows.

Henry H. Ford

Henry H. Ford
American Consul General

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

10
DESP. NO.

FROM : Amembassy RABAT

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

July 9, 1959
DATE

no enc.

REF :

JUL 13 1959

15 For Dept. Use Only	ACTION AF-5	DEPT. INFO RM/R-2 IRC-8 EUR-5 P-5 U/I P-1 U/O-1 S/PS S/S-3 INR-1 L/MSC-1 OTHER NAVY-3 AIR-4 CIA-15 OCB-1 OSD-4 USIA-10 ARMY-4
	REC'D 7/20	

SUBJECT: (2) Transmittal of a Memorandum of Conversation Dealing with the Informal Views of a Palace Authority on Communism and Neutralism in a Moroccan Context

The enclosed memorandum of conversation was drafted by Mr. John Root, First Secretary, and records his final conversation with an official of the Royal Cabinet before departing on home leave and transfer from this Embassy.

For the Ambassador:

Don V. Catlett
Counselor of Embassy for Economic Affairs

Enclosure:
Memorandum of Conversation

cc: Amcongen CASABLANCA
Amcongen TANGIER

POL:
REPORTER
RFAndrew:bab:ja

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OCT 19 1959

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: Mohammed HAMIANI, Director of the Royal Cabinet
John F. Root

SUBJECT: Palace Views of Moroccan Communist Party/Informally Described and Neutralism by Director of Royal Cabinet

DATE: July 2, 1959

Mohammed HAMIANI took me aside at a reception today and, knowing that I was about to leave for Washington, solemnly announced that "the battle has begun." In the course of the half-hour discourse that followed it developed that by this pregnant phrase Hamiani meant that the battle against Communism in Morocco had begun and indeed against the dangerous drift of neutralism that was carrying Morocco away from its natural affiliations with the West and towards the peril of Communism.

It meant that the King and the loyal elements about him, like Hamiani, realized that temporizing with these dangers was no longer possible and that the time for firm decision and drastic action had come. In Hamiani's mind it meant that the Moroccan Communist Party would be ruled out of existence and that Communist activity would be suppressed, ruthlessly if necessary. He noted with sarcasm that Dr. Hadi MESSOUAK, who is almost as well known in Morocco as a Communist as he is an outstanding ear, nose and throat specialist who occasionally treats the King, had had the effrontery to respond to the King's call for advice from the political parties on the forthcoming elections as spokesman for the Moroccan Communist Party. According to Hamiani, this last straw had been mighty enough to shake the Palace out of its benevolent mood and into its present determination to head off the Communist danger in Morocco before too late.

Hamiani went on to say that neutralism in the world today was ridiculous for a small country like Morocco. It was impossible. Morocco had to attach itself to a larger power and so far as he was concerned the obvious choice was the West in the form of the United States.

Hamiani emphasized that in waging the battle, U.S. support would be badly needed - more support than it was now receiving. It had particularly to be able to count on our help in the pinches. He glossed over the question of the bases, describing it as a problem that would fit into the larger framework of cooperation, and emphasized the potential role of the Moroccan Army in backstopping our own forces in the hour of need.

I said these were all encouraging things to hear. The U.S. certainly wished to be of all appropriate help. It was of course necessary to know what help and it was up to our friends in Morocco to tell us this. We also had to be very careful about interfering in internal Moroccan politics. I went on to ask whether, in the strong sentiments Hamiani had just expressed, he felt that the King had

the support of the present Government. Hamiani's reply was that there were some questionable elements but that the King certainly knew who they were and had his eye on them.

COMMENT: Hamiani is not a very imposing personality. Nevertheless, he speaks with self-assurance and the strategic position he now occupies in the Palace lends weight to his words. He said he was not speaking with the knowledge of the King and the King of course was not free to speak as bluntly to a foreigner as he,Hamiani, had done, but I could be sure he was expressing the King's mind.

The rather unusual and pointed manner in which the communication was delivered suggests, if it does nothing else, that Hamiani does not like the present trend of Moroccan policy or its advocates in and out of the Government and thinks he is in a position to do something to check the trend.

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

73
DESP. NO.

FROM : Amembassy RABAT

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

August 20, 1959
DATE

REF : Embassy despatch 375, Embassy tel. 268, Embassy AG-17

AUG 25 1959

9 For Dept. Use Only	ACTION AF-5	DEPTO INFO RM/R-2 IRC-8 IO-4 EUR-5 U/O-1 U/OP-1
	REC'D 9-1-59	OTHER CIA-10 ARMY-4 NAVY-3 AIR-4 USIA-10

SUBJECT: US-USSR Détente and French A-Blast Stressed in Communist Paper OCB-1

AL JAMAHIR

In its issue No. 9 of August 13, 1959 Al Jamahir -- "a political news-weekly" on its masthead -- equally admits for the first time to the title "Organ of the Moroccan Communist Party" (MCP). Interestingly enough, moreover, the paper also announces in a box on page 1 that Hayat Ech Chaab, the "central organ of the MCP in the national language", will shortly reappear.

US-USSR DETENTE

Whereas in its first few issues the paper had concentrated its fire on the evils of United States aid and on the dangers flowing from the presence of American bases in Morocco stridently demanding the mobilization of the masses for their elimination, a shift of emphasis first discernible in issue No. 8 has now been confirmed in issue No. 9.

Although space is still given to the bases, they are buried on page 3 while the lead editorial signed by Ali YATA, Secretary General of the Moroccan Communist Party, calls for an international easing of tensions"for the good of our country and of humanity" now that the chiefs of the USSR and the USA have made the "historic decision" to visit each other. "Our people greet this event with relief and joy" the paper says, "after the years of international tension and heart-rending fear for Peace." Not surprisingly, "the desire for peace" of all the people, "including the American people", is basically responsible for the decision, according to Al Jamahir, but the major effort was, of course, made by the USSR which "persevered vigorously and intelligently even obstinately" in its labors for the triumph of peaceful coexistence.

There is, however, a Franco-German fly in the ointment.

Indeed, some "retarded Cold-Warriors" such as Messrs. BIDAULT [redacted] and ADENAUER, are still "screaming" that the "two colossi" are carving up the globe and that small and middle-sized powers will disappear. Moreover, they agitate "the specter of other great risks". "We are proud that we do not hear any discordant voices here", the paper adds before sounding a note of caution: "The meetings between Khrushchev and Eisenhower will not settle all outstanding questions", it allows, but "they will create a better climate

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from which fear and suspicion will be banished." They may even, the paper opines, "lead to a suspension of nuclear and thermo-nuclear tests and to simultaneous, general disarmament. Humanity will breathe again."

FRENCH A-BOMB EXPLOSION IN THE SAHARA

"Stop the Atomic Crime" is the banner heading of another editorial -- on page one of this issue -- signed by Abdallah LYACHI, managing editor of the paper. France "reveals her criminal designs at the very moment the people of the entire world put their hopes for an international slackening of tensions in the upcoming meetings between Khrushchev and Eisenhower -- a détente which does not favor the colonialist aims of France," the paper says.

On page two one finds an amplification of the same theme: "A new Appeal of the Moroccan Communist Party Against the Poisoning of Africa by Atomic Explosions" is the headline -- followed immediately by the demand that the Security Council be seized of the question. This is reiterated in an open letter signed by Ali YATA and addressed to the Prime Minister in which the latter is urged to react firmly to this French initiative and to go to the UN. "We are sure that a démarche by our country....would obtain the warm backing of the overwhelming majority of humanity and would lead to the condemnation of imperialist France."

Just in case this is not persuasive enough, the paper supplies a petition which its "Friends and readers" are asked "to sign and have signed." The complete petition is to be returned to Al Jamahir. It is quoted below in its entirety:

"PETITION

"France is getting ready to explode its first Atomic Bomb.

"It has chosen the Sahara for this experiment.

"This choice is an assault upon the sovereignty of the Arab Maghreb and a provocation against the peaceful peoples of Africa.

"We, Moroccans, conscious of the dangers of this experiment to the health, life and safety of the populations of the Maghreb, are crying out in alarm to our government asking it to adopt the firmest attitude in the face of such provocation. We ask it to act in close collaboration with fighting Algeria, Tunisia and all African nations to accuse France before the Organization of the United Nations.

Name of Signer... Signature....."

Call to Action

Having submitted its recommendations to the Government, the paper then turns to the cadres and the street. "After the Monrovia Conference" it says, "This is the Time for Action."

The article bearing this title reviews the results of the Monrovia talks and specifically the decision to give moral and material aid to the Algerian people. Returning to the theme-of-the-week, it draws attention to the opposition at the conference to French plans for the A-bomb explosion in the Sahara and concludes that the resolution voted in Liberia "unquestionably expresses the unanimity of African public opinion." "Our people are resolved to fight with all available means against this possibility the consequences of which would be horrifying (effroyable) ." However, the paper continues, it would be an error for us to limit ourselves to a recommendation. "The feelings of the people must be made plain on a national scale. The mass of the people must be mobilized and they must be permitted to express their disapproval out loud," as was done in Ghana, Niger/ia and elsewhere. "Far from hurting our country this gesture would back our government's actions, stimulate popular enthusiasm and create the conditions for success. United action by all national patriotic organizations is required. We must act before August 29, probable date of this 'atomic crime' in our Sahara. The time for action has come!"

COMMENT: It is unlikely that the Moroccan Government acted in response to this MCP gambit. Rather, the Party would appear to be continuing its policy of adopting the most nationalistic line of other political groupings in Morocco as its own. (Refdes)

For the Ambassador:

David G. Nes
Counselor of Embassy

cc: Amembassy Paris
Amembassy Tunis
Amembassy Madrid
Amcongen Casablanca
Amcongen Tangier

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Control: 11778
Rec'd: SEPTEMBER 17, 1959
9:56 A.M.

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1959 SEP 17 PM 12 16

FROM: RABAT

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 585, SEPTEMBER 17

SENT DEPARTMENT 585, REPEATED INFORMATION PARIS 259, MADRID 133, TUNIS 160, TANGIER, CASABLANCA UNNUMBERED.

FRENCH AND ARABIC LANGUAGE PRESS SEPTEMBER 15 CARRIES NEW SUSPENSION MOROCCAN COMMUNIST PARTY. DECREE, SIGNED BY PRIME MINISTER, WHICH APPEAR IN LATEST BULLETIN OFFICIAL, INVOKES ARTICLES 3 AND 19 OF DAHIR ON ASSOCIATIONS. DECREE STATES "POLITICAL PARTY KNOWN AS MOROCCAN COMMUNIST PARTY" SUSPENDED AS OF SEPTEMBER 10, 1959.

ARTICLE 3 OF DAHIR SAYS "EVERY ASSOCIATION BASED ON ILLICIT CAUSE OR WITH ILLICIT OBJECT, CONTRARY TO LAW, TO GOOD MORALS OR WHOSE OBJECT IS TO STRIKE AT NATIONAL TERRITORY OR MONARCHICAL FORM OF STATE, IS NULL, AND OF NO EFFECT."

PERTINENT SECTION ARTICLE 19 STIPULATES ASSOCIATIONS GUILTY INFRACTION ARTICLE 3 "WILL BE SUSPENDED BY DECREE FOR PERIOD FIFTEEN DAYS AT MOST. IF AT EXPIRATION THIS PERIOD, ACTION HAS NOT BEEN TAKEN, WITH VIEW DISSOLUTION THIS ASSOCIATION BEFORE THE COMPETENT TRIBUNAL, SUSPENSION IS LEGALLY LIFTED AND ASSOCIATION CAN, WITH NO FORMAL PROCEDURE, RESUME ITS FUNCTIONS."

PRESS CARRIES ONLY BRIEF ITEMS ON SUSPENSION WITHOUT COMMENT. PETIT MAROCAINE NOTES, IN ADDITION BARE FACTS, "MOROCCAN OFFICIAL CIRCLES HAVE STATED CTPM SUSPENDED, NOT FOR ITS ACTIVITIES, BUT FOR ITS IDEOLOGY AND DOCTRINE WHICH RUN COUNTER TO MUSLIN PRINCIPLES, WHICH ARE BASIS MOROCCAN STATE.

AL ALAM HEADS ITS SHORT FRONT PAGE ACCOUNT "PRIME MINISTER DECIDED SUSPEND ALL ACTIVITIES COMMUNIST PARTY IN MOROCCO". AT TAHRIR'S LACONIC FRONT PAGE ACCOUNT MAKES NO REFERENCE ROLE PRIME MINISTER.

YOST

JR

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771.00/9-1759 MMW

OCT 9 1959

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Control: 17306
Rec'd: September 24, 1959
8:21 p.m.

FROM: Rabat

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 649, September 24

SENT DEPARTMENT 649, REPEATED INFORMATION PARIS 283, TUNIS 175, CASABLANCA, TANGIER UNNUMBERED

Embassy telegram 585

ACP reports that suit for dissolution Moroccan Communist Party has been introduced in tribunal first instance in Casablanca. According this report interested parties have not yet been notified but date for first session court may be set early next week.

YOST

DRJ:5

771.00/9-2459

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : AmEmbassy, Rabat

124
DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

October 1, 1959
DATE

REF :

OCT 9 1959

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	REC'D 10-14	OTHER CIA-10 USIA-4 ARMY-2 NAVY-2 AIR-1

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SUBJECT: Forwarding a Declaration of the Moroccan Communist Party (MCP)

The Embassy forwards as an enclosure to this despatch a recent declaration (7/10/59) of the MCP which appeared in a Rabat bookstore (Le Livre), known as an outlet for Communist literature, before that party was suspended.

The declaration entitled "For an Economy at the Service of the Masses Freed from Imperialist Bonds" analyzes the economic situation of Morocco pursuant to the creation of a national institute of issue and the institution of foreign exchange controls decided by the Moroccan Government in connection with French measures to block the operations account, and concludes that measures to achieve an over-all solution to the nation's basic problems and, specifically, its economic liberation, have become an imperious necessity.

Stating that the colonial structures of the Moroccan economy have not been transformed since independence, leading to stagnation of trade and exploitation of the masses, the document calls for a radical change in the monetary relations between Morocco and France. "It is in the political arena with the backing of the people, that the negotiations must be conducted and not solely on the technical plane", the document states and demands:

1. The elimination of French influence over Moroccan monetary policy;
2. The mobilization of the nation's domestic financial resources in the service of economic development;
3. The nationalization of the key sectors of the economy controlled by "colonial capital"(electricity, foreign transportation companies, big mines);
4. A true beginning to a real program of agrarian reform.

In conclusion, the MCP calls upon the people to mobilize and promises MCP support to all political parties and patriotic organizations which act in unison to achieve these ends.

For the Ambassador:
David G. Nes
Counselor of Embassy

Enclosure:
1. Declaration of MCP (7/10/59)

POL:PSEBASTIAN/jf
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DECLARATION DU BUREAU POLITIQUE DU PARTI COMMUNISTE MAROCAIN.

POUR UNE ECONOMIE LIBEREE DES ENTRAVES IMPERIALISTES, AU SERVICE DES MASSES POPULAIRES.

Le Bureau Politique du Parti Communiste Marocain a tenu une séance extraordinaire le mercredi 8 Juillet 1959, au cours de laquelle il a procédé à une analyse de la situation économique de notre pays, à la lumière des récentes mesures relatives à la création d'un Institut National d'Emission, et au Contrôle des Changes décidé par le gouvernement à la suite du blocage du "compte d'opérations" par le gouvernement français.

De cette analyse il ressort que l'exigence d'apporter des solutions d'ensemble aux problèmes fondamentaux de la libération de notre économie et de son développement harmonieux au profit des masses populaires, est devenue une nécessité impérieuse.

LES STRUCTURES COLONIALES DE NOTRE ECONOMIE N'ONT PAS ETE TRANSFORMEES.

Dans le cadre du système colonial français, notre économie avait un caractère complémentaire, dépendant, recevant ses impulsions de la "Métropole", aux besoins de laquelle elle était adaptée, pour l'achat et la vente de matières et de produits, pour l'exportation et le transfert des capitaux et des profits, pour également la mise en oeuvre d'une politique de peuplement colonial.

Avec l'extension de la pénétration impérialiste se développa la main-mise du capitalisme colonial sur nos principaux moyens de production et d'échange et nos sources de matières premières. Mais la grande masse de notre peuple, ouvriers, paysans, artisans, petits commerçants, fut soumise à une dure oppression économique et à l'exploitation sur une vaste échelle.

La reconquête de notre indépendance politique ne fut malheureusement pas suivie d'un changement sensible de cette situation.

Certes, des mesures positives ont vu le jour dans certains domaines comme par exemple le nouveau tarif douanier, la création du B.E.P.I., l'opération labours, la création d'un Office National du Thé, le décrochage du franc marocain à la fin de l'année 1958; mais outre leur caractère fragmentaire, ces mesures ne pouvaient à elle seule résoudre nos problèmes économiques fondamentaux. Leur insuffisance traduit, surtout de la part des gouvernements qui se sont succédés depuis l'indépendance, l'absence de perspectives claires et d'orientation précise, quant aux moyens de libération de l'économie et d'accélaration de ses rythmes de développement, en même temps qu'un refus de s'appuyer sur le potentiel révolutionnaire du peuple.

"ECREMAGE" ET STAGNATION DE LA PRODUCTION NATIONALE.

C'est ainsi que les années 1956, 1957, 1958 ont vu se poursuivre un véritable "écrémage" sur le plan économique, les meilleures richesses de notre pays étant exportées sans que des investissements suffisants soient réalisés pour

élargir le potentiel de production et même pour seulement le renouveler. Celà s'est manifesté en particulier par le gonflement du chômage urbain, aggravé par la croissance démographique et l'exode rural.

L'année 1958 n'a pas connu de redressement économique d'une certaine importance. En termes globaux la production nationale connait une stagnation indéniable depuis les années 1953 - 1954. La valeur de la production intérieure de 1958 est à peine égale à celle de 1953, alors que l'accroissement naturel de la population peut être estimé à plus d'un million pour les cinq dernières années. Qu'en conclure, sinon que le niveau de vie déjà si misérable des classes laborieuses est en baisse constante, en l'absence d'une production accrue et d'une plus juste répartition du Revenu National?

Depuis l'indépendance, notre Parti n'a pas cessé d'éclairer l'opinion nationale sur la nécessité de briser le "carcan" impérialiste qui étouffe notre économie et qui constitue l'entrave principale à son développement harmonieux.

A maintes reprises, le Parti Communiste Marocain a montré que la clé de ce développement réside dans la nationalisation de nos principaux moyens de production et d'échange et des sources de matières premières, secteurs presqu'entièrement dominés par le grand capital colonial, ainsi que dans une profonde réforme agraire qui réaliserait la redistribution des terres de la colonisation et de la féodalité au profit des paysans pauvres, en même temps que la transformation du cadre organique de la production agricole.

L'expérience de notre peuple au cours de ces trois dernières années a pleinement vérifié la justesse de ces impératifs.

IL FAUT TRANSFORMER RADICALEMENT LES RELATIONS MONETAIRES ET FINANCIERES QUI NOUS LIENT A LA FRANCE.

Notre pays est en fait soumis à un véritable pouvoir économique étranger. Jusqu'au Ier Juillet dernier, sa monnaie était émise par une banque coloniale, la "Banque d'Etat du Maroc", dont le rôle fut déterminant dans la pénétration économique et financière de l'impérialisme au Maroc, l'installation et la consolidation de la colonisation agraire, la main-mise de la "Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas" sur les secteurs-clés de l'infrastructure, l'intégration de notre économie dans l'ensemble du système colonial financier et commercial.

Après la reconquête de notre indépendance politique, la nationalisation de la "Banque d'Etat du Maroc" s'imposait de façon impérative.

Il fallait y procéder avec le souci de supprimer un instrument important de la dépendance monétaire et financière de notre pays et d'ouvrir une brèche sensible dans le système de la domination économique étrangère. Il fallait reprendre non seulement le privilège d'émission qu'exerçait la B.E.M. depuis 53 ans, mais également l'ensemble des positions financières, bénéfices, droits et privilèges qu'elle avait acquis durant le Protectorat grâce à sa situation de Banque Coloniale d'émission, tels que le portefeuille-titre, la totalité du produit de la réévaluation de l'encaisse-or depuis la fondation de la banque etc.

D'autre part, la reprise de notre Institut d'Emission aurait dû s'accompagner de la transformation des relations monétaires et financières qui lient notre pays à la France, dans le sens de la conquête d'une indépendance monétaire et commerciale effective: création d'une véritable monnaie nationale et suppression des servitudes qui pèsent sur notre commerce extérieur dans le cadre de la zone franc.

C'est sur le terrain politique et avec l'appui du peuple que devaient être menées les négociations, et non uniquement sur le plan technique qui prenait comme base le maintien de notre pays dans la zone franc.

LE CONTROLE DES CHANGES PEUT ETRE LE POINT DE DEPART D'UNE VERITABLE POLITIQUE DE DEVELOPPEMENT ECONOMIQUE INDEPENDANT.

Le compromis boiteux intervenu à l'issue des négociations qui se sont déroulées récemment entre le gouvernement marocain et les représentants de la B.E.M. laissait subsister d'importants moyens de pression aux mains de l'impérialisme français, que celui-ci ne manqua pas d'utiliser pour tenter de réduire à néant nos efforts de libération économique, pour obliger le Maroc à dévaluer et à se soumettre intégralement aux mécanismes monétaires et financiers à caractère colonial de la zone franc. Tel est le véritable sens de la décision française de suspension du "compte d'opérations".

Les premières décisions prises par notre gouvernement pour faire face à ce chantage (obligation du rapatriement du produit des exportation, contrôle par l'Office des Changes des transferts de capitaux y compris à destination de la zone franc) sont incontestablement positives dans la mesure où elles revêtiront un caractère permanent, en devenant l'élément de base d'une politique de développement indépendant de notre économie. Le Contrôle des Changes permettra de stopper l'hémorragie de ressources et de devises qu'il subit depuis des années (depuis janvier 1959 seulement plus de 40 milliards ont quitté le Maroc sans compter le non-rapatriement du produit de beaucoup d'exportations) et de mobiliser ses ressources financières internes pour accroître les investissements et combattre efficacement l'aggravation du chômage.

IL FAUT CREER LES CONDITIONS NECESSAIRES DE LA CROISSANCE ECONOMIQUE.

Dans cette voie, nous devons intensifier nos efforts afin d'aboutir à la transformation radicale des relations économique de l'ère coloniale qui subsistent dans nos rapports avec la France, et à la création sur le plan intérieur des conditions nécessaires du développement économique.

Ce qui implique l'élimination de la tutelle monétaire française (création de notre propre fonds de devises, conclusion d'accords commerciaux et de paiement avec tous les pays qui entretiennent des relations commerciales avec le Maroc, contrôle sévère du commerce extérieur), la mobilisation de nos ressources financières internes au service des priorités du développement de notre économie (nationalisation du crédit bancaire et des compagnies d'assurances, réforme de la fiscalité sur la base d'une forte taxation des gros revenus et bénéfices), la nationalisation des secteurs clés contrôlés par le grand capital colonial (énergie, sociétés étrangères de transports, grosses

mines) afin d'ouvrir des perspectives réelles à l'industrialisation, l'amorce d'une véritable réforme agraire qui permettrait d'élargir le marché par l'amélioration du pouvoir d'achat des masses paysannes.

POUR la réalisation de ce programme immédiat, qui sert les intérêts de la classe ouvrière, de la paysannerie pauvre et de toute la Nation le PARTI COMMUNISTE MAROCAIN appelle l'ensemble du peuple à se mobiliser. Il invite tous les partis politique et toutes les organisations patriotiques à agir dans l'union et le respect de leur indépendance. Il réaffirme son soutien à toute initiative gouvernementale allant dans le sens de la libération effective de notre Economie,

CASABLANCA - 10 Juillet 1959

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Control: 5412
Rec'd: October 8, 1959
4:33 p.m.

FROM: Rabat

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 744, October 8

SENT DEPARTMENT 744, REPEATED INFORMATION PARIS 335, TUNIS 197, TANGIER CASABLANCA UNNUMBERED.

EMBTEL 649 and 585.

Legal proceeding to bring about dissolution Moroccan Communist Party began Casablanca court October 8. Depositions of defense taken in half hour session. Next session of court to meet after one week delay.

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Date Sent: Oct. 21, 1959
Rec'd:

OCT 26 12 28 PM '59

FROM: Amembassy RABAT

TO: Secretary of State

NO: G-72

RPTD INFO: Amembassy PARIS UNN
Amembassy MADRID UNN
Amembassy TUNIS UNN
Amconsgen CASABLANCA UNN
Amconsgen TANGIER UNN

According to press the following attorneys will defend the Moroccan Communist Party in the action being brought for its dissolution by the GOM under legislation now in force in Morocco:

Me. Weil and Sarraute of the Paris Bar
Me. Fonteyne (Brussels)
Me. Ben Mustapha (Tunis)
Me. Leone, Senator, Member of the Rome Bar
Me. Platt-Mills, (London)

The following members of the Casablanca bar:

Me. Ralph Benarrosch-Macudy
Me. Achour
Me. Luigi
Me. El Alami
Me. Butin of the Rabat Bar.

The case is being tried before the Civil Cour in Casablanca which is presided by Me. Roche. The prosecution is handled by Me. Zamouth, King's Attorney.

The MCP is represented in the Court Room by its Secretary General Ali Yata and by Messrs. Abdeslem Bourquia, Abdallah Layachi and Dr. Hadi Messouak.

POL:PSebastian:cmt
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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : Amembassy RABAT

162
DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

October 28, 1959
DATE

NOV 2 1959

REF : Embdes 261, 375, 480, G-72

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	INFO REC'D 11-6-59	OTHER RMIR-2 IRC-8 L-2 EUR-5 ICA-11 IO-4 CIA-10 USIA-10

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SUBJECT: Testimony at the Trial of the Moroccan Communist Party

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SUMMARY

According to the testimony carried by the press, the trial of the Moroccan Communist Party is marked by a legally difficult and hard to prove prosecution argument: that the Moroccan party is anti-monarchy and hostile to Islam. The prosecutor, moreover, weakened his case by stating that the subversive nature of the party was so well known that the Government does not deem it necessary to wait for a subversive act to bring the Party to trial.

The Defense, conducted by Moroccan attorneys and others from several European countries, is efficiently exploiting the weakness of the Government's case.

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The press, in mid October, carried excerpts of the testomony given at the trial of the Moroccan Communist Party (MCP) which is being asked to show cause in Court why it should not be dissolved under the Dahirs published in November 1958 entitled "Charter of Public Liberties." (Embdes 261)

This despatch seeks to summarize the main points made by the Prosecution and the Defense, according to press reports, and to comment on them briefly.

THE PROSECUTION

Maitre ZAMMOUTH, King's Counsel, is the prosecuting attorney. In his plea he attempted to build a case for "clear and present danger" to the most important institutions of Morocco: the monarchy and Islam, if the MCP were not dissolved. Unfortunately, he did so only by castigating the Party's alien and subversive intentions. To support his thesis he stated, inter-alia, that "whenever a Communist Party has instituted people's societies, these societies have been hostile to monarchies and to religion. These are the grounds," he said, "on which I demand the party's dissolution", and continued "Need I remind you that the Communist Party bases its activities on the conditions in the country in which it operates? Need I give you the ABC's of the International, Marxist-Leninist Communist Party? Need I prove to you that the class struggle is backed by the most heavily armed nation in the world?"

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"One of the principles of the Communist Party", he continued, "is the absolute and complete negation of the State by way of the most absolute and complete negation of the indivudual. If a 'Pink Ballet-type group'* were to organize here -- would I have to wait for it to put on licentious spectacles before demanding that it be dissolved? No.....The theory of Islam is opposed to these principles. HM Mohamed V is, for all Moroccans, not only a temporal but also a spiritual leader. That is why his subjects stand with him....."

The prosecuting attorney then went on to note that the Communist Party is proscribed in the UAR, Saudi Arabia, Libya, Jordan, the Sudan, "a part of Lebanon", and Iraq. He defined it as "the artillery of an international movement" and quoted passages from the Communist press of the USSR to illustrate the Party's anti-religious doctrine.

In summary, therefore, the Prosecution contended that the MCP:

1. Is guilty of subversive intent;

2. Is part of an International Communist Movement, anti-monarchical and anti-religious in character;

3. That this movement is capable of various forms, depending upon the environment in which its agents operate;

4. That it is alien to Morocco, its faith, and form of Government; and

5. That the MCP should, therefore, be dissolved since it does not conform to the stipulations of the Royal Charter on Public Liberties (Embdes 261, p. 8).

THE DEFENSE

The defense could scarcely fail to seize upon the "Pink Ballet" opening the Prosecution had thus presented.

The Government's admission that it was prosecuting the MCP because it did not seem necessary to wait for the act as long as grounds existed for believing in the eventual illicit intentions of any organization, gave the Defense a magnificent opportunity. Its attorneys challenged the legality of a trial of opinions and repeatedly demanded that the Government prove the MCP's alleged intent to combat the Faith and the Monarchy.

The MCP was represented in Court by 12 attorneys, representing the bars of Casablanca, Rabat, Paris, Tunis, Beirut, Rome, Brussels, and London (Embair G=72).

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* The reference is to a lurid case pending in France allegedly involving the organized debauch of minors.

(COMMENT: In itself a pretty good illustration of the international nature of the Communist Party but apparently not seized upon by the prosecuting attorney.)

A number of Communist militants and leading Moroccan party personalities were in the Chamber, among them Ali YATA, Secretary General of the MCP, Abdesslam BOURQUIA, newspaperman, and Abdelhadi MESSOUAK, physician (one of whose patients is Mohamed V).

In their pleas the attorneys for the defense made the following points:

1. This is a trial of the alleged intentions of the MCP, i.e. of ideas. This is illegal and dangerous ("If this throne were to fall one day -- the judgement you render today may be primarily to blame").

2. This is a trial of Freedom of Opinion and of Association.

3. The program of the MCP as given by Ali YATA at the 21st Party Congress (Emdes 375) is a Muslim, nationalist program which Allal al FASSI, a known Muslim and nationalist, has not hesitated to reproduce and distribute in his publication SAHARA AL MAGHREB.

4. There is no proof of the charge that the MCP is anti-monarchical or against Islam. ("Do you have a tract, a paper, anything at all to prove that the MCP is against the monarchy or the Faith?") It is perfectly legal in Tunisia. In Australia, moreover, a Government attempt to ban the Australian Communist Party ended with a resounding defeat for the Government...There is no truth to the charge that the socialist countries are against religion -- after all are there no mosques in China? Are there no churches in Russia?

5. In Belgium there is a monarchy and there are Communists who are patriots like anyone else. These Communists have never done anything against the monarchy. On the contrary. They defended it. Belgium, moreover, is a religious country and the Communists never attacked Freedom of Religion there. In 1940 Hitler's hordes viciously attacked the Communists in Belgium. At that time they were 12,000. After the Hitlerite repression in 1945, they had become 100,000.

6. Great Britain is a monarchy. A Communist Party exists in Great Britain and freely conducts its affairs and activities there. The Communist Party is, in England, one of the defenders of the Faith and of the Crown.

7. The accusations against the MCP are baseless. It is said that the MCP fights against religion and the public order. Where is the proof? The Italian CP is one of the strongest in Europe and it is one of the most intransigent defenders of the Constitution.

8. If the intentions of the MCP are on trial here, why not those of the Army, of politicians, of other political parties? Where do you stop?

Has not Montesquieu (Spirit of the Laws) written that the laws are there to punish only when there is external action? The statutes of the MCP must be taken for what they are, what they say, and an ill-conceived judgement must not be thrust into the domain of opinion and of Freedom of Thought.

9. In any event, which Islam is supposed to be under attack? The old? The new? Muslim institutions? Vague words! By what right does the Prosecution judge what is or is not sanctioned by Islam? Is this a Court of Ulemas (i.e. Doctors of Divinity)? At one time the wearing of the tarboosh was considered obligatory for all Muslims and those who wore other headgear were considered to be anti-Muslim. Today, Morocco's police and army wear caps. The veil? HRH Princess Lalla AICHA, who is both Muslim and Moroccan has abandoned it. Islam evolves and changes...

10. The dissolution of the MCP would infringe on Morocco's independence and tarnish her prestige.

COMMENT: With the Soviet press already commenting on the trial, (see PRAVDA, October 26, article by BIRYUZOV) the Moroccan authorities may find that the elimination of a party which, while numerically insignificant, is of importance in Morocco primarily because of its non-Moroccan connections and which has found it expedient to echo the conventional nationalistic aims and slogans of the "bourgeois parties" is a more onerous undertaking than they may, initially, have thought.

From the legal point of view, moreover, it is clear, both from the language of the legislation and from the talent available to the defense, that it will be exceedingly difficult to "prove" that the MCP is subversively anti-monarchy and anti-religious. It is noteworthy in this connection that Government officials have stated to the Embassy that the Moroccan authorities moved against the MCP in the first place primarily because their hand was forced by the Party's application for a Charter and legality, under local legislation.

For the Ambassador:

David G. Nes
Counselor of Embassy

cc: Casablanca
Tangier

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Control: 18535
Rec'd: October 29, 1959
7:36 a.m.

FROM: Rabat

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 870, October 29

PRIORITY

SENT DEPARTMENT PRIORITY 870, REPEATED INFORMATION PARIS 398, MADRID 179, TUNIS 233, TANGIER UNNUMBERED, CASABLANCA UNNUMBERED

Casablanca court decision October 29 in case of Moroccan Communist Party, as reported by ACP, follows.

Court declared its incompetence to decide whether Communist Doctrines compatible with Islamic religion (one of two charges brought by Moroccan authorities). On other charge, court found that MCP not incompatible with monarchical form of government but on contrary favorable toward constitutional monarchy. On this ground it rejected prosecution demand for party's suppression.

YOST

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Control: 19928
Rec'd: October 30, 1959
7:16 p.m.

FROM: Rabat

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 886, October 30, 7 p.m.

SENT DEPARTMENT 886; REPEATED INFORMATION PARIS 399, MADRID 180, CASABLANCA, TANGIER UNNUMBERED.

Embassy telegram 870

Citing official sources, ACP reported October 30 that government would appeal court decision in Moroccan Communist Party trial Casablanca to Court of Appeals Rabat. This confirmed to me by Minister Justice Bahmini who expressed confidence that with more thorough preparation government would win appeal.

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

63
DESP. NO.

FROM : AmConGen CASABLANCA

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

October 30, 1959
DATE

REF :

NOV 4 1959

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	INFO	DEPT.
	AF-5		RMR/R-2 EUR-3 S/S-1 RMR/P-1 IRC-8 RMR-1
	REC'D 11/10		OTHER CIA-10 USIA-10 OCB-1 ~~NSC Site~~

SUBJECT: Casablanca Court Refuses to Uphold Moroccan Government Suspension of the Moroccan Communist Party.

The Communist Party of Morocco (MCP) was suspended by a decree contained in the Official Bulletin on September 11, 1959. (See Emb Rabat Tel. 585 to Dept.) On October 15 and 16, 1959, a trial was held in the Civil Tribunal to determine if the MCP should be dissolved legally. The writer attended one session of the trial which was conducted in French and before French Judges ROCHE, MUSELLI, and AVERSENG. The defense (MCP) employed twelve attorneys, six of whom were neither citizens nor residents of Morocco. (See Emb Rabat Airgram G-72 to which should be added the name of NIMER from Beirut.) The courtroom was crowded to overflowing and on occasion not even standing room was available. The most prominent spectator was Ali YATA, Secretary General of the Moroccan Communist Party. The trial was given wide coverage in the Casablanca French language press, but a review of the Arabic language press translations available to the Consulate General failed to reveal a single article concerning the trial.

The case presented by the prosecution was predicated primarily on the thesis that the Communist Party is opposed to a monarchical form of government and to the principles of Islam. It was pointed up that Mohammed V is the religious leader of Morocco as well as chief of state and as such had the duty and the right to protect both the Islamic religion and the monarchy. The prosecutor (Doctor Maître Zammouth) cited the fact that the Communist Party is illegal in most Islamic countries and declared that the paradise of Mr. Khrushchev studded with its missles and sputniks is not the paradise of Islam. In the name of the government, he demanded the dissolution of the Party.

The MCP presented a far more extensive and intensive case than did the prosecution. The MCP attorneys brought out that many Moroccan Communists fought and died for the independence of Morocco, that the King had received a delegation from the MCP upon his retur

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from exile and that the aims of the MCP are similar to those of the present government. The defense cited the fact that there are mosques in the USSR and challenged the prosecution to cite a single act or a single example demonstrating that the Communist Party combats Islam. BENARROSH described himself as a young Moroccan patriot and said that he was rebelled at this attack on the liberty of opinion and the liberty of association. He said that it was his duty as a young Moroccan Communist attorney to tell the court that the Moroccan people would be the court of last resort in deciding the fate of the MCP. The defense cited the fact that Allal EL FASSI had circulated throughout Morocco the statement made by Ali Yata before the 21st Congress of the Communist Party. It also cited the fact that courts in other countries had refused to uphold governmental efforts to declare the Communist Party illegal and cited Australia and Tunisia as prime examples. Benarrosh requested the court to permit Ali Yata to explain his true nationality and the conditions of his presence in Morocco. The court refused the request on the basis that Ali Yata was not on trial. The hearings were completed late in the afternoon of October 16 and the court declared it would render its judgment on October 29.

On October 29 the court ruled that it was not competent to judge the validity of the argument that Communism is opposed to the Islamic religion since it is a civil and administrative court. (See Emb Rabat Tel 870 to Dept.) The court also ruled that it could not prejudge the intentions of the MCP since it was stressed that the Party had never worked against the monarchy. This ruling came as a surprise since most MCP members thought the court would rule against them, and were preparing to take their case to the Court of Appeals in Rabat. A large crowd was at the court when the judgment was handed down, including Ali Yata and several of the attorneys who represented the MCP at the trial.

There is little doubt that the trial and the judgment of the court has increased the local prestige of the MCP. The writer has discussed the trial with several Moroccans including Ahmed BENKIRANE, Larbi BERRADA, and Mohammed DK'Hissi. Most Moroccans seem to disbelieve Communism is a threat to the crown or to Morocco and believe it should not be declared illegal. They have only a meager knowledge of Communist dogma and have little or no interest in the vague danger Communism may be to Morocco and the Moslem religion. There are several rumors in Casablanca as to why the government suspended the MCP and as to why the trial was held. The most prominent rumor is that people close to the crown wanted to embarrass the Ibrahim government and the UMT. If that rumor is true their action was ill-conceived and ineptly executed for the MCP now is in a more favorable position than it has been since independence.

It is not known if the government will pursue the case in a higher court, but if it does, the Party will have the sympathy, if not the support, of a sizeable number of educated Moroccans in Casablanca.

/Henry H Ford

Henry H. Ford
Consul General

35

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Info:

SENT TO: AmEmbassy Rabat 812

INFO: AmConsul Casablanca 109

771.001/9-1759 771.001/10-3059

We are consulting Justice Dept. for possible materials useful further prosecution MCP (Embtel 585, Casa D-63, and Rabat G-72). Would appreciate any further documentation first trial or copies pertinent Moroccan legislation.

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HERTER

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Drafted by: AF:AFN:WNStokes:jej 11/12/59

Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by: AFN - William J. Porter

Clearances:

L/NEA - Mr. Reid per Craig

cc: S/S-CR

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DESP 171 W | ENCL

Date NOV 3, 1959

From RABAT

To STATE

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

185
DESP. NO.

FROM : AmEmbassy, RABAT

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

DATE November 9, 1959
NOV 13 1959

REF : Embdesp ~~162, October 28, 1959~~ 171, November 3, 1959

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.
16	AF-5	INFO Rm/R-2 IRC-8 S/B-1 EUR-5 P-5
	REC'D 11/17	OTHER CIA-15 OSD-4 Army-4 Navy-3 Air-1

SUBJECT: Interior Ministry's Views on Banning Morocco's Communist Party

The unsuccessful attempt by the Moroccan Government to ban the Moroccan Communist Party has been reported elsewhere (Refdes).

Of interest is a conversation, a memorandum of which is transmitted herewith, between Mr. Moulay Mustapha ALAOUI, Director of Political Affairs in the Ministry of the Interior and Mr. Dwight Dickinson, Political Counselor of this Embassy.

Mr. Alaoui in an earlier conversation with another Embassy officer had indicated that the fact that the Moroccan Communist Party was receiving foreign financial support to permit it to publish its newspaper Al Jamahir was also a factor in the Government's decision to seek court action against it.

Now that this action has been unsuccessful, Government officials are somewhat embarrassed about the whole affair. Interior Minister M'HAMEDI, prior to his departure for New York confided privately that the Government's case had been very badly presented, so badly that it would have been preferable never to have brought the matter up at all.

For the Ambassador

Don V. Catlett
Counselor of Embassy for
Economic Affairs

Enclosure:
Memorandum of Conversation

cc: AmEmbassy PARIS
" MADRID
" TUNIS
AmConGen CASABLANCA
" TANGIER

POL:DDickinson:SHMcClintic
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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: Moulay Mustapha Alaoui, Director of Political Affairs, Ministry of Interior

Mr. Dickinson, Embassy

DATE: October 16, 1959

SUBJECT: Interior Ministry's Views on Banning Morocco's Communist Party

Mr. Alaoui's replies to questions posed by Mr. Dickinson took the following form:

Q. Why is action being taken to dissolve the Communist Party?

A. Because it is against religion and against the monarchy.

Q. How can you prove this? What have they done?

A. We can prove it. Of course, they have never been in power. Anyway, they are leagued with a foreign party.

Q. What better proof of this then the fact that they have lawyers from six foreign countries to defend them? If they were a truly Moroccan party, would this be the case?

A. Of course not. However, justice moves slowly in Morocco. The trial may take a long time.

Q. Aren't you afraid that when the Communist Party is banned it will go underground and become even more dangerous?

A. No. It has no following in Morocco. The leaders are opportunists. Ali YATA (Secretary General) is not even a Moroccan. He is an Algerian. Only MESSAOUK (one of the King's doctors) is a sincere Communist. Communism has no appeal here, no appeal to the people. It is not a danger.

Q. Then why bother to take action against it?

A. We should not have done so, had they not registered as a party under the law. When they submitted their articles, we had to act within three months. If they had not done so, we should have done nothing.

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PRIORITY

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

197
DESP. NO.

FROM : Amembassy RABAT

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

November 16, 1959
DATE

REF : Embdes. 162, Oct. 28, 1959; 171, Nov. 3, 1959; 185, Nov. 9, 1959

NOV 20 1959

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.
	NFS	INFO RMR 2 REC 6 SIB 1 EUR 5 P 5 L 2
	REC'D 12-1	OTHER CIA 10 USIA 4 IRRINV 1 NIMA 3 DIA 2

SUBJECT: A Conversation with Me. Zarouk

BIOGRAPHIC

Maitre Ahmed ZAROUK is the King's Attorney (Procureur du Roi) at Morocco's Supreme Court. According to the Embassy's files, he was named President of the High Sherifian Court in 1955 by the Sherifian Government, appointed President of the Court of Justice in 1957 and to his present post slightly later that year. He is probably in his late sixties or early seventies. Mme. Zarouk is much younger than her husband. They appear devoted to each other, and she accompanies him to many western social functions. The Zarouks have seven daughters, the youngest of whom is an infant. Me. Zarouk is a thoroughly stimulating, jolly, learned Moroccan gentleman who speaks fluent French, Spanish, some Italian and has achieved a basic mastery of the English language by taking courses at the American Language Center, Rabat.

THE ACTION AGAINST THE MOROCCAN COMMUNIST PARTY

In a conversation with the reporting officer, the recent trial of the Moroccan Communist Party (MCP) was briefly touched upon (refdes). It was Zarouk's opinion that the case now being appealed to the Court of Appeals, Rabat, would reach the Supreme Court and that nothing in the Party's bylaws could be used to prove the Government's thesis that the MCP is anti-monarchy or anti-Islam. He refused to speculate on the outcome of the action but added that Morocco had laws "and they will be applied".

For the Ambassador:

David G. Nes
Counselor of Embassy

cc: Amcongen Casablanca
Amcongen Tangier

POL:PSebastian:st
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INSTR A-50
Date NOV 17, 1959
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To RABAT

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Control: 13255
Rec'd: November 20, 1959
7:05 p.m.

FROM: Rabat

TO: Secretary of State

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NO: 1037, November 20, 8 p.m.

SENT DEPARTMENT 1037; REPEATED INFORMATION CASABLANCA, TANGIER UNNUMBERED.

RMR

Department telegram 812.

No further documentation first trial MCP available. Only pertinent Moroccan legislation appears be Dahir on public liberties, Embassy despatch 261, January 13, 1959. See also Embassy despatch 480, May 15, 1958; 162, October 28, 1959; 171, November 3, 1959; 185, November 9, 1959.

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82
DESP. NO.

FROM : AmConGen CASABLANCA

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

DATE: December 8, 1959

REF : Deptel 812 to Rabat, Rptd. Info Casa 109, Nov. 14, 1959.

DEC 11 1959

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION AF	DEPT. INFO Amb 2 IRC 5 Amb 4 EUR 5 ED 4
	REC'D 12/16	OTHER C.I.A -10 USIA 10

SUBJECT: Documentation on the Trial of the Moroccan Communist Party

771.00 [illegible] CIA

The president of the Tribunal de Premiere Instance of Casablanca, Paul ROCHÉ, informed the reporting officer on November 20 that no verbatim text has been made of the sessions devoted to the trial of the Moroccan Communist Party. He thought that only the defendants had employed a stenotypist and suggested that one of the defending lawyers, LUIGI, might be approached to obtain a copy. At the time of the call, Roché had already forwarded the dossier to Rabat where the Moroccan Government will attempt a reversal of the judgment of Roché's court. The King's speech from the throne had just been reported in the press, and Roché referred to the King's statement that materialistic doctrines have no place in Moroccan life, as a sort of forecast of the verdict of the Court of Appeals in Rabat. (Other Moroccans have gone further and told the reporting officer that the King's statement would be the "text" of the next verdict.)

COMMENT. Roché was defensive in manner and without being asked to, reviewed the Court's reasoning. He denied gratuitously that he was a communist or sympathetic to their codes. He inquired if the American press had reported the trial and was hopeful of receiving copies of what might have appeared. It was his opinion that Le Monde of October 31 had given the best press report. Clearly, Roché had enjoyed the limelight cast on him by this event.

Henry H Ford
Henry H. Ford
Consul General

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PAGE 1 OF 1 PAGES

Date Sent: December 17, 19
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DEC 22 2 37 PM 59

FROM: AmEmbassy RABAT

TO: SecState, WASHINGTON, D.C.

NO: G-154

RPTD INFO: AmEmbassy PARIS
" TUNIS
AmConGen CASABLANCA
" TANGIER

The date on which the appeal of the Government against a decision in a Casablanca court to the effect that the Moroccan Communist Party had not been proven to merit dissolution has been moved from December 15, 1959 to January 26, 1960. The case will come before the Court of Appeals in Rabat.

YOST

POL:RFAndrow DDickinson DGNeg

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